

DESCRIPTIONS OF A NEW SPECIES AND TWO NEW
SUBSPECIES OF BIRDS FROM TEXAS.

BY GEORGE B. SENNETT.

Psaltriparus lloydi, sp. nov. LLOYD'S BUSH-TIT.

Adult Male:—Upper parts lead-color, whitening on forehead, and somewhat darker on back. Sides of head glossy black, which extends backward on each side, meeting and forming a collar on lower back of neck. Underparts ashy white, darker toward the tail, and black on chin. Bill and feet glossy black. Wings and tail light brown, edged with ashy plumbeous.

Adult Female:—Similar to male but with ear-patches clear glossy brown instead of black. More or less of black is seen back of auriculars and in collar. Young similar to adults.

Nest pensile, purse-like, composed of mosses, flower stems, and lichens, having a lining of feathers. Eggs pure white. Breeds in pineries of high altitudes.

Habitat. Mountains of Western Texas, between the Pecos and Rio Grande Rivers.

The following data are taken from specimens in my collection obtained in Limpia Cañon, near Fort Davis, Presidio County, at altitudes of from 6200 to 6400 feet, by Wm. Lloyd, for whom I take pleasure in naming this interesting new species. The first two specimens named below are the types.

	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.
No. 4895, ♂, June 16, 1887.....	1.93.....	2.25.....	27.....	57
No. 4896, ♀, June 16, 1887.....	1.96.....	2.30.....	30.....	67
No. 4897, ♀, June 16, 1887.....	2.00.....	2.27.....	30.....	65
No. 4898, ♀, June 16, 1887.....	1.90.....	2.23.....	30.....	58
No. 4913, ♀, June 21, 1887.....	2.00.....	2.30.....	30.....	65
No. 4912, ♂, juv., June 21, 1887..	1.95.....	2.27.....	27.....	62
No. 4903, ♀, juv., two-thirds grown,				June 17, 1887.
No. 4904, ♂, juv., two-thirds grown,				June 17, 1887.

Nest with one egg taken in Limpia Cañon, June 21, 1887, altitude 6200 feet, fastened to twigs of cedar seven feet from the ground. The cedar tree was twenty-five feet high, situated on a divide between two ravines. Identification complete, since the female was discovered in the nest, and the male was perched close by. Nest six inches long; largest diameter, which is at the bottom, 3 inches; smallest diameter, which is near the top under the twigs that supported it, 2.5 inches. The egg measures .58 inch in length and .42 in breadth.

This species is distinct from *P. melanotis*, Black-eared Bush-Tit, by reason of total absence of both brown on back and rufous on underparts. It is easily distinguished from *P. plumbeus* by the collar, and by the black instead of ashy brown on sides of head. Aside from the head markings it is more like *P. plumbeus* in color than *P. melanotis*, but it has a much whiter throat and a larger bill.

Nyctidromus albicollis merrilli, subsp. nov. MERRILL'S
PARAUQUE.

Adult male:—Upper parts gray, washed lightly with brown; the feathers have black shaft-lines, which are very delicate on sides of crown and neck, heavier on rump, heavier still on back, and extra broad on centre of crown and occiput, giving the effect of a black central crown patch. The scapulars have the inner webs gray and the outer webs barred and blotched with black, the whole broadly margined with white, creamy white, and light buff, presenting a rich velvety effect. Primaries brownish black; secondaries spotted with black and buff; tertiaries gray with heavy black shaft-lines. Coverts tipped broadly with light buff and cream white. Edge of wing buff. A broad bar of white extends diagonally across both webs of five (sometimes six) of the outer primaries; this white wing-patch is partly covered by the secondaries in the closed wing. The two central tail-feathers gray, herring-boned down the shaft with black; the next pair of feathers are darker gray and have broader black markings; the third pair are pure white almost their entire length, sometimes having more or less margin of brown on outer web; the fourth pair of feathers are wholly white on inner web and mostly brownish black on outer; outer tail-feathers brownish black. Chin black, barred with buff. Large throat-patch of white. Underparts light buff, barred with black, lightly on belly, heavily on flanks and breast, the latter being also washed with white, which gives the whole breast a grayish buff appearance. Size, largest of its species.

Adult female:—A little smaller than the male; rather darker, with smaller throat-patch, and white of tail restricted to the terminal portion of the feathers. The four central tail-feathers like those of the male; the rest heavily barred with black and buff. The wing-patch is also more restricted in size, is confined to the four outer primaries, and on the upper surface shows clear buff instead of white, since the latter color is limited to the inner web of remiges.

Immature plumage:—More fulvous all over and more heavily barred with black underneath. The black lines of crown are broader, and cover the head more extensively. White wing-patch of male mixed with buff; white on tail not so sharply defined, nor does it extend so near to base as in mature birds. The outer tail-feathers are barred and streaked with brown and buff. White throat-patch smaller and barred sparingly with

black and buff. In this immature stage the sexes are not easily determined aside from the difference in the white tail-patches; in the males the white on second feather from outside is never less than 2.5 inches long, while in the females the corresponding patch is about one inch in length.

Young, first plumage:—More pale buff on upper surface, the black markings smaller, browner and less velvety. Crown speckled with irregular diamond-shaped brown spots, each surrounded by light gray. Underparts dull pale buff. Wing-coverts, throat, breast, sides and flanks barred with black. Throat-patch indistinct. Sexes recognized by same markings as in full grown birds.

Young, downy stage:—Completely covered with the finest and softest of down, leaving nothing exposed but the feet and the tip of bill. Color on belly the palest of tawny; darker on sides, and running into deep fulvous on back, shoulders, chin, and sides of head through eye, and on the edges of both mandibles.

Since at least two years must elapse before the perfect plumage is attained, the bird necessarily undergoes various changes in special markings and general color: hence the necessity for being explicit in describing the various stages. The types are in full breeding plumage, having, with two young just from the egg, been taken at the most northern limit yet recorded.

Types:—No. 4122, ♂, my collection, taken by J. M. Priour, Nueces River, Nueces Co., Texas, March 22, 1887. Wing, 7.10; tail, 7; tarsus, 1.05. No. 4121, ♀, my collection, taken by same person at same place and time as above. Wing, 6.90; tail, 6.30; tarsus, 1.02.

Adult males (four specimens) average, wing, 7.10; tail, 7. Immature males (eight specimens) average, wing, 7; tail, 6.93. Adult females (two specimens) average, wing, 6.90; tail, 6.62. Immature females (three specimens) average, wing, 6.82; tail, 6.40.

Habitat. Southern Texas, and probably Northern Mexico.

This form, when compared with others of the species from Southern Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Guiana, and Brazil, can be distinguished, first by the prevailing gray color on upper parts, where the others have brown, rufous or cinnamon; second, by its large size, exceeding the large southern Brazilian form in length of wing and equalling it in length of tail; third, by the males having the outer tail-feather generally without white, and the white when it does occur being much restricted, while in more tropical and South American forms the rule is that males have much white on inner web of outer tail-feather. The birds of this genus I believe to be resident wherever found. I take pleasure in naming this race for my friend, Dr. J. C. Merrill, who first discovered the bird in the United States, on April 1, 1876 (see Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. I, p. 88), and who aided me materially in my explorations on the Lower Rio Grande.

From material at my command it seems to me the species can be further divided by separating the large Southern Brazilian form from the one found on and near the equator. I hope to make this revision in the near future. Should my supposition prove correct the large Southern Brazilian bird should be called *Nyctidromus [albicollis] derbyannus* Gould (Icon. Av. II, 1838). Of this form I have had opportunity to examine the series of 27 specimens belonging to the American Museum of Natural History, collected by Mr. Herbert H. Smith in the Province of Matto Grosso, Brazil. I have been aided greatly by all the material relating to this group in the possession of the National Museum, which was kindly loaned me by Mr. Ridgway.

***Parus carolinensis agilis*, subsp. nov. PLUMBEOUS
CHICKADEE.**

Top of head and throat black; wings and tail edged with white, as in *carolinensis*. Above pale plumbeous; below white with the slightest possible wash of buff on sides and flanks. Size, larger than *carolinensis*, and the tail longer, more nearly approaching the length of the wing.

Type, No. 3894, my collection, taken by J. M. Priour, Bee Co., Texas, Jan. 2, 1887. Wing, 2.45; tail, 2.40; culmen, .38.

The measurements of three other adults are as follows: No. 406, ♀, Collection of J. A. Loomis, Paint Rock, Texas, Feb. 21, 1887: wing, 2.42; tail, 2.52; culmen, .37. No. 4218, my collection, April, 1887: wing, 2.47; tail, 2.25; culmen, .37. No. 4219, ♂, my collection, April 15, 1887: wing, 2.40; tail, 2.25; culmen, .40. I have also two full grown and two half grown young, taken in April, which resemble adults.

This new Chickadee can be distinguished from its nearest ally, *P. carolinensis*, by its whiter underparts; by its being almost entirely free from buff washings on sides, and from olive and brown washings on upper parts; and its very pale lead color on back.

Habitat. Texas (Bee, Victoria, and Concho Counties).

I have difficulty in finding a name that will apply to any of the bird's special characteristics which has not already been used for some species of this genus. The common name, however, will distinguish it from other forms of *Parus*.